

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 9, 2014

Present: Knox, Ames, Coughlin, Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08.

The minutes from November 14, 2013 were accepted on a motion by Ames/Coughlin.

Walton reported on the single-family service. To date, the number of substantiated complaints from residents is between 5 to 8 per week. Walton is hoping that this will drop over the month to fewer than 3 per week. The recycling rate is holding steady at 35% to 39%. There has not been an increase in recycling with the supply of the larger recycle containers. Monthly revenue and expenses are similar to when F. W. Mayo and Sons held the contract. Walton will continue to follow service complaints, recycling rate and revenue and expenditures.

The committee reviewed a proposed strategy to implement a zero waste campaign in the Town of Mansfield. Members were in agreement with the outlined strategy. Walton will begin by working with the businesses in the town center to consider using only recyclable, reusable or compostable supplies on the day of the Mansfield Festival (on the Green) in September.

Newport Biodiesel is interested in supplying a 150 gallon container for the transfer station so that we can collect residential waste vegetable oil. The Rhode Island company makes and sells biodiesel locally. Staff is looking at spill containment in order to be in compliance with the DEEP.

Walton circulated a flyer about an international Clean Up Mansfield Day. Originating in Mansfield, England, other Mansfield communities around the world are being asked to participate on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 by carrying out a clean-up activity. Since it is a week day, Walton will ask the schools if they want to participate.

As part of the zero waste strategy, Walton suggested resuming the composting workshops in combination with a small discount on one or two types of compost bins. The committee discussed two styles of composters - the Green Cone, which is a food digester that is partially submerged in the ground and can decompose meat, bones, pet waste and food scraps, and a Garden Gourmet, which is a standard-sized backyard bin that is designed to handle food scraps, leaves and grass clippings. Ames and Knox are willing to test out the containers since Signature Marketing, a local company, will supply a sample of each. Walton will request the samples.

Walton stated that the expansion of textile recycling to include worn-out clothing, stuffed animals, pillows, scrap material and more has been advertised through various media outlets. The paint collection has been very popular with the disposal of 11 tons of material since it began mid-July 2013.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator